

# Sermon Reflections

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*Too Close To God? • Exodus 20:18-26*

**Summary: This kind of God demands a certain kind of worship.  
Rectify your worship by these four mandates.**

## **1. Raise your view of His greatness (v. 18)**

- God brought Israel out of Egypt and led them to Sinai to introduce Himself. When He appeared on the mountain, He was accompanied by thunder, lightning, thick clouds and a very loud trumpet sound (19:16). These continued even as God spoke to the people individually and gave them the 10 commandments. What does this tell us about this God? How did the Israelites respond?
- How should this passage impact our view of God. What does it teach us about who we are before God? What does it teach us about who He is before us? What are some changes in our day to day life that should be made in light of this description of God at Sinai?

## **2. Sense your need for a mediator (vv. 19, 21)**

- In spite of the terrifying introduction and drawing back from God, they still wanted a relationship with Him. So, they asked Moses to be the go-between. Was God offended by the people's request (Deut 5:27)? What was God's plan in having a mediator? Discuss what this means for us today as we stand before God? (Ref. 1 Jn 2:1,2)

## **3. Increase your obedience by fearing Him (v. 20)**

- "Do not fear....., that the fear of Him may be before you" seems contradictory. Explain these two references to fear; "do not fear" vs "fear of Him". How does this balance of fear help us?
- What is the comfort in God testing us? What does such testing remind us of? What should be our response to this kind of grace?

## **4. Constrain your worship by His Word (vv. 22-26)**

- Can we decide how God is to be worshiped? What about images? Did the Israelites see anything when God talked directly to them on the mountain?
- What about altars? What seems to be the principle in making an altar? What was it to be made of? What is the result of not making the altar according to God's word? What would God's response be when His name is honored through sacrifice on the altar?
- How might creativity in our worship practice be a dangerous thing? Talk about the importance of the Word in our worship each Sunday.
- Why is it that God comes for fellowship with us? What establishes the basis of our relationship with Him?